

MARCH MILITAIRE.

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March Militaire.—2.

Musical and Dramatic.

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

The St. John Oratorio Society had a business meeting last Monday evening at which it was decided to resume the rehearsals as soon as practicable. The resignation of Mr. Charles Fisher as conductor of the society was read and accepted. Mr. Fisher remains in England for the present I believe. A change was made in the directorate of the society by the election of Mr. Crawford to succeed Mr. Harrison who is going to Sackville. There will be a special meeting of the society this evening to receive the report of a committee appointed for some business purposes.

St. Andrews church has at length secured an organist in the person of Mr. Thomas Athoe, a young Englishman who is now connected with a church in Truro, N. S. I believe Mr. Athoe will assume charge of the organ in St. Andrews in the early part of next month.

Tones and Undertones.

Jessie Bartlett Davis who is the contralto of the Bostonians, made her debut in grand opera. She says it was Colonel Mapleson who engaged her, but she adds, it was not because he considered he had unearthed a genius. It was due to the fact that every one else refused to substitute for the role of Siebel at ten minute's notice. I was considered better than the alternative of dismissing the audience.

J. Aldrich Libbey is singing with Jules Grau's opera company this season.

H. C. Barnabas and wife celebrate their golden wedding in Chicago quite recently. Jessie Bartlett, Davis Viola Allen and Wm. H. Crane contributed to the delight of the occasion.

Miss Nita Carritte, it is said, is to appear in comic opera at the Garrick theatre in New York on the 21st inst.

Walter Damrosch's opera "The Scarlet Letter" will have its first production in Boston during February next. It will be sung in English.

A Parisian newspaper is the authority for the statement that Mlle. Calve's marriage is not far off.

Marsick, the violinist, is due to arrive in New York on the 29th inst. per steamship Le Champagne.

"The Bohemian girl" drew large audiences at the Castle Square theatre, Boston, last week Miss Clare Lane and Mr. J. K.

Murray have become great favorites at this house.

The Ariel quartette of Boston sang in the Berkeley Temple institute course, Boston, last week. The members of this quartette are: Miss Jeanette Fernandez, Miss Gertrude Christie, Miss Fanny E. Holt, and Miss Emma V. Foster.

"The Wizard of the Nile," a new comic opera in three acts, music by Victor Herbert and book by Harry B. Smith, received its first presentation last Monday evening at the Alvin Theatre in Pittsburg, by a company including Frank Daniels, Walter Allan and Dorothy Morton.

Leon Margulies has engaged Frau Amalia Materna, the famous Wagnerian singer, for a farewell tour of America, which will extend to the Pacific coast. This will positively be her last appearance in public in America, as Frau Materna has decided to retire from public life.

Miss Sophia Traubmann, who sang in New York several years ago in opera and concert, arrived there on the Normanna a few days ago. She will sing in Carnegie Hall, on the night of Sunday, the 13th inst.

Sir Augustus Harris has arrived in New York in connection with the production of "Hansel and Gretel." He calls it his first real American venture and considers the little opera a "gem." Sir Augustus returned to England today 12th inst.

Madame Patti is reported to be seriously ill and may be obliged in consequence to abandon her plans for the near future.

The estate left by Von Suppe, which comprises real and personal estate is estimated at 300,000 marks and royalties. This is divided equally between his widow and his grand children.

Miss Maud Rondebush, an American singer, has just made an overwhelming success at the concert Symphoniques at Ostend, Belgium.

Mr. Sim Reeves, accompanied by Mme. Maud Rene and other artists, is, said to be contemplating a tour in Australia. This is rather a long journey for an eminent vocalist of 75; but Sir Charles Halle, who is in his 77th year, has just concluded a successful tour, and is on his way home from South Africa.

A three act opera on the subject of "Shakespeare's" "The Taming of the Shrew" to be called "La Furia Domata" is being written by the Italian Composer

Spiro Samata. It will be produced at La Scala, Milan.

Italian opera composers are said to be very busy just now. Sixty four new operas are already announced for production this season.

It is 45 years since Paganini, the wizard of the violin, was buried at Ravenna, but when his grave was opened a short time ago, to make some repairs, his face was in such a perfect state of preservation that the family ordered photographs taken of it. It is a most gruesome and awful idea, but none the less these photographs which it is said will soon be for sale in the Paris picture shops, will doubtless be sought after greatly.

The London Musical Standard continues its crusade against opera singers. It says: "As the rule, your opera singer is a very commercial person, and lazy withal so that his motto would seem to be, 'do as little work as you can for the money.' It really must be a delightful thing to be an opera singer, for you have only to learn half a dozen parts and you are set up for life. You must study 'Faust' 'Romeo et Juliet' 'Trovatore,' and a few of the stock operas, or you may elect to limit yourself to 'Carmen' and 'Cavalleria,' and go on playing them, season after season, until you or the opera die of old age."

Tamagno is said to have a lovely home at Varese, near Milan, in which is a theatre where he and his daughter, now 15 years old, give numerous performances for his friends. He has amassed much wealth but says he can live on two dollars per day and be quite content.

Padewski is expected to arrive in the United States on the 23rd. inst. per steamer Tentonic.

The "Messiah" was given at the Leeds Festival, under the direction of Sir Arthur Sullivan, who wisely resolved upon the excision of the symphonies to certain of the airs and at the same time, struck out some of the repeats, so that without injuring the music in the slightest degree, the oratorio played closer, and admitted of the restoration of one of the numbers that are usually cut out. There is a good example for imitation here, except in regard to the restoration of omitted numbers.

Mme. Schumann has just celebrated the 76th anniversary of her birthday. She was born at Leipzig, and it was in her native place that she made her debut when she was but 10 years old. She married in 1840 Robert Schumann, who died 16 years later after exerting a marked influence on

her style as a pianist and the choice of works which she interpreted.

"The Black Patti"—Sisieretta Jones—who is now singing in Berlin, was engaged by cable yesterday to appear at Proctor's Pleasure Palace for two weeks next month, at a salary of \$1,000 per week. At the expiration of the two weeks she will return to Europe to fill a long engagement in Paris.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

It is said there are about ten thousand members of the theatrical profession in the United States. The proportion is six thousand actors and four thousand actresses.

A play entitled "A Cat's paw" or "Jonathan on the Continent" has been written by Max O'Rell. It is said to be witty.

The Hanlons of "Superba" fame in more recent years, once gave ninety-two performances of a play in one week in St. Petersburg.

Fanny Davenport will open her engagement with either "Fedora" or "La Tosca."

Amy Busby who is making such a hit in the role of Margaret in "The Fatal Card" at the Boston Museum, is the sister of Miss Georgia Busby who was here with Harkins in his 1894 company. She was the lady of willowy figure and undulating movement in walking, and quite pretty.

There are three scenes in the fourth act of "Burmah" now having a run at the Boston theatre and it is said there is not a woman in either of them.

"In Sight of St. Paul's" Sutton Vane's melodrama is meeting with much favor at Bowdoin Square theatre, Boston. In one of the acts there is a choir of boys supplied, speaking of which feature a newspaper "The surpluses of these choir boys in, "In Sight of St. Paul's" must have been made by a person who never saw a surplised choir even in a picture."

"The Social Highwayman" which is a dramatization of a story published in Lippincott, has been successfully presented by Messrs Joseph and E. M. Holland at the Garrick theatre, New York.

The theatrical sensation in Boston is and has been the advent of Sir Henry Irving and Company of which Miss Ellen Terry as usual, is the leading lady. The Bostonese crowd the theatre (the Tremont) at each performance of "King Arthur" although "the Balls" and "Nance Oldfield" were not well received, apparently because they were seen so often before. A critique of the Irving season says: "So long as Mr. Irving continues to give such productions as "Buckey" and "King Arthur

he can not fail to find a welcome in every country where art is appreciated."

Julia Arthur plays Elaine in "King Arthur" by Irving's Company and her work is pronounced "good." In the play Elaine lies on her bier in sight of the audience for twenty minutes, but it is not the Julia seen in the play, but her understudy for that scene, in the shape of "a wax figger."

The theatrical man of the Philadelphia Inquirer, a copy of which paper of a last month's date has just reached me, in a notice of "Saratoga" at the Girard Avenue theatre in that city, has a kind word to say of Miss Ethel K. Mollison of this city, who is a member of the company playing there this season. I cheerfully chronicle the notice which reads, "A bewitching stage picture was always made by Miss Ethel K. Mollison, as Mrs. Carter. The costuming of the ladies was rich and tasteful in the extreme." In this connection I trust before very long I may have the pleasure of chronicling distinction for this young lady and honor as well, for her, in respect to superior attainment and real clever work in the profession she has selected. I believe her to be talented and that with close application and hard work, supplemented by her other gifts, she will speedily gain prominence in the theatrical world. The experience of the more distinguished on the stage is that there is no royal road to success.

Miss Lotta Lynne, who will be remembered as a member of Arthur Rehan's company which produced Miss Mollison's play at the Opera house, is a member of the Girard Avenue theatre Stock company of this season. Another St. John favorite, Miss Emma Maddern is also in that company.

When Augustus Daly shortly produces "Henry IV." Miss Rehan will appear as Prince Hal, and James Lewis will be Falstaff.

Mlle Rhea has just produced a play by Paul Kester. It is of the romantic order and is called "Nell Gwynne."

Olga Nethersole next American season will open at Albany N. Y. on the 21st inst.

Madame Modjeska was playing at the Garrick (N. Y.) theatre last week.

Otis Skinner has made a hit with his new play "Villon, the Vagabond." The play itself is much commended also. Its setting is France in the fifteenth century. Mr. Skinner is pronounced "magnetic, versatile and artistic." The honors were shared by Miss Maud Durbin, for says a writer "her Denise was as spontaneous

genuine and graceful a portrayal as is often seen."

A repertoire manager at present barnstorming in New England, has in his company a versatile young man who plays everything for which he is cast—even children's parts. One night he was announced to play Eva, but unfortunately he had a five days' growth of whiskers of which he was unable to rid himself. A shave was absolutely necessary and he applied to his manager for ten cents. The manager was short that evening and said he was sorry.

"But what shall I do?" asked the versatile young man. I can't play Eva with this face!"

"That's true," replied the manager thoughtfully. "I guess we'd better put up the Danites and you can play your old part of Joe Saunders."

Mr. Frohman, it is said spent \$40,000 on the stage settings and furnishings of "The Masqueraders." Twenty-two London and Paris gowns worn in one scene cost \$17,500, and one of Miss Allen's dresses cost \$1350. Then all the furniture of the play was imported, and the custom house valuation of the gilt chairs used was \$138 apiece.

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